



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held September 20, 2005, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

"In May of 2005, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) 'account for an estimated 2 million infections, 88,000 deaths, and \$4.5 billion dollars in excess health-care costs annually.' In Los Angeles County, healthcare-associated infections continue to increase. From 2002 to 2004, there was a 16 percent increase in outbreaks reported in hospitals, as there was the entire year of 2004.

"Consumers are increasingly requesting the public release of HAIs information, so they may make better-informed decisions about their healthcare options. However, it would be necessary for changes in State laws on release of information for public disclosure of HAIs (including outbreaks) in a standardized and easily understood form, while continuing to maintain patient confidentiality.

"The Department of Health Services is working on a voluntary plan, under current law, pending any changes in statutes. However, changes in State laws are necessary to make information public.

"Senate Bill 739 (Speier) authorizes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to implement a program to require general acute care hospitals to have a written infection-control program for the surveillance, prevention, and control of infections. SB 739 is essential in reducing healthcare-associated infections."

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Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Antonovich, and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Antonovich being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of SB 739 (Speier), legislation which would authorize the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to implement a program to require general acute care hospitals to have a written infection-control program for the surveillance, prevention, and control of infections; and
2. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to members of the State Assembly expressing the Board's support of SB 739.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel

Letters sent to:

Senator Jackie Speier  
Each Member, State Assembly